

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Chairman, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Kevin Spilman, Jerry Kent, Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Chairman, Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the Budget Hearing were approved on a motion by Jerry Kent and seconded by Warren Norris.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

David Malson representing the Public Defender Board delivered the disturbing news that the Public Defender Commission has adopted new regulations to Public Defender expenses. Contracts for Public Defender cases must be a minimum of \$30,000. Supplemental Public Defender funds may only be used for first time felony cases. CHINS and parental termination of rights cases will now be part of the reimbursement formula. Judge Northam stated that CASA funds could assist in the funding shortage.

EMA

EMA director Chuck Kemker shared that he is losing the free storage in the building that currently stores the EMA equipment. The purchaser of the building is asking \$500 monthly to store 3 trailers and the EMA truck. The building owned by Clean Green Rush on Spencer St. was considered but would require in-depth renovation. Board members are looking for other options.

CORONER

Rush County Coroner Christine Hall appeared before the board to request a transfer of funds in the amount of \$200 from the Deputy Coverage line in the Coroner Fund to Supplies Miscellaneous. The transfer was approved on a motion by Charles Smith and a second from Warren Norris. Motion carried.

COURTROOM RENOVATION

Judge David Northam presented a proposal from Architura Architects for a long range plan although there are no funds available in the Judge's budget. The recommendation from the Council was to discuss funding plans with the Commissioners and seek more than one firm for quotes.

CLERK

Debbie Richardson Clerk of the Courts requested the purchase of E-Poll Books at a cost of \$25,000 for the eighteen books required. The books will eliminate manual entries, save on space and will assist in processing the 6 precincts consolidated into 3 in the city. This system has not yet been certified by the state of Indiana. Jerry Kent remarked that this was a lot of

money for one day. The council approved the following transfers into the Clerk's Equipment Appropriation allowing the purchase:

- Clerk Record Book \$500.00 Motion by Kevin Spilman seconded by Marvin Hedrick. Motion carried
- Clerk Forms \$645.00 Motion by Charles Smith seconded by Janet Kile. Motion carried.
- Clerk Printing & Adv \$500.00 Motion by Marvin Hedrick seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.
- Perpetuation Part time \$5,000.00 Motion by Jerry Kent seconded by Kevin Spilman. Motion carried.
- Perpetuation Supplies \$1,000.00 Motion by Warren Norris seconded by Jerry Kent. Motion carried.
- Perpet. Main. Supplies \$1,000.00 Motion by Kevin Spilman seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.
- Perpetuation Medicare/SS \$383.00 Motion by Warren Norris seconded by Jerry Kent. Motion carried.
- Perpet. Equip Supplies \$1,000.00 Motion by Charles Smith seconded by Marvin Hedrick. Motion carried.
- Election Service Update \$10,500.00 Motion by Janet Kile seconded by Charles Smith. Motion carried.

ECDC

Director, John McCane reported that Councilman Janet Kile and Attorney Leigh Morning had joined him on creating an ordinance adopting Tax Abatement Guidelines. Janet Kile moved to adopt the following ordinance. Marvin Hedrick seconded the message. Motion carried.

Mc Cane also shared that the drainage project had been submitted to include three phases totaling \$12,000,000. The first phase would be Cherry St., the second Conrad Harcourt Way, and the third would be county road up to CR 200 N.

Councilman Gerald Mohr asked Mc Cane of his knowledge to resurface SR 52 for the 3rd time. Mohr reported that he received notice from INDOT on former governor's Mitch Daniel's stationary of the proposed road work.

AREA PLAN

APC Director, Kevin Tolloty requested a transfer of funds from Secretary Salary to Computers/Monitors in the amount of \$2,000 to purchase two new computers for the office. Charles Smith moved to allow the transfer and Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested three transfers. The first in the Highway General Fund in the amount of \$9,835 from Radio Expense to Health Insurance. Jerry Kent made the motion to approve. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The second was to move \$10,000.00 from Maintenance Sign Inventory to General Gas, Oil & Lube. Warren Norris initiated the motion with Janet Kile seconding the action. Motion carried.

The third request was to move \$22,000 from Maintenance Roads & Bridges to General Gas, Oil & Lube. Kevin Spilman moved to approve. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sitton stated that INDOT is scheduled to replace a culvert on SR 52, south of 250 E.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey reported with the assistance of the Tax Sale auctioneer, Councilman Jerry Kent 27 of 60 tax sale properties were sold. Humphrey reported that tax collections went well although no lock box services were used due to the \$1,900 fee. The Treasurer then asked for a transfer of funds of \$300 from Association Dues to Computer Printer. Marvin Hedrick moved to approve. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried. The second request was to move \$1,000 from Travel to Computer Printer. Motion to approve by Janet Kile and seconded by Jerry Kent. Motion carried.

RALEIGH EMS

Verlin Custer representing Raleigh EMS requested the council confirm their approval to a 3 year contract with the County at a set amount of \$48,000 per year. Raleigh is requesting guaranteed funding to purchase an ambulance. Jerry Kent recommended that the County Council maintain the appropriation for 3 years so the County may enter a long term contract with Raleigh EMS. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Sherwood reported that there are 38 inmates; 9 are sentenced, 8 are Department of Corrections, and 5 are female. A dispatcher and jailer have resigned. The jailer was filled by moving a part time person to full time. The sheriff reported that has been difficult to find dispatchers. There were 28 applicants for the merit deputy to replace Duane Raab.

The sheriff is still observing the price of gasoline before he locks into a contract. The cost is currently down to \$3.07.

Sherwood was granted permission to spend \$3,200 of the \$23,400 in Commissary Fund for the annual awards dinner on a motion by Jerry Kent and a second by Kevin Spilman. Motion carried.

Sheriff Sherwood also requested a transfer of \$1,000 for the jail from Lock Maintenance to Building Maintenance. Kevin Spilman moved to approve. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

Auditor Mary Ann Beard reported that the city water rates that affect the courthouse and the jail have increased by 14% and the sewer rate has increased by 59%. The new rate schedule was adopted after the 2014 budget was approved.

Area 9 Agency has sent an invoice for \$3,561 for the cost of 211 services. There was nothing budgeted for 2013 and \$1,000 budgeted for 2014. The auditor was instructed to send a letter informing the agency of what is allotted for next year.

A list of annual appointments was given to the board and will be advertised for the meeting on December 11th.

The auditor reported on state statute IC 36-2-5-3 that reads that the county fiscal body shall provide a county assessor and deputy county assessors who have attained a level two or level three certification \$1,000 and \$500 respectively in addition to their regular salary. The assessor has never included this line item in her budget, but the auditor will present amended salary ordinances for 2013 and 2014 to be compliant with the law.

ANIMAL CONTROL

The county received a bill from the City of Rushville for Animal Control Services in the amount of \$21,743.50 in May for the first half invoice. Only \$30,000 was budgeted for the entire year. The auditor was instructed to pay \$15,000 and to write the Mayor explaining that the City will only receive \$30,000 as budgeted. The Mayor returned in June and stated that the city expected the full bill to be paid. Now the county has received a bill for \$28,487.00 with only \$15,000 remaining in the budget. Marvin Hedrick moved that we find the addition money and pay the \$13,487 above our budgeted amount. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. The motion carried with Charles Smith and Janet Kile voting "No".

SALARY ORDINANCE

The following salary ordinance was adopted on a motion by Jerry Kent and seconded by Kevin Spilman. Motion carried.

RAINY DAY FUND

Councilman Jerry Kent moved to transfer by ordinance \$500,000 from the CREDIT Fund to the Rainy Day Fund. Councilman Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RUSH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AMBULANCE

County Council representative to the hospital board, Kip Burkett was present. There was discussion on the return of the \$502,000 ambulance depreciation fund to the county. Leigh Morning stated that attorneys Barnes & Thornburg and Hall Render were called upon to determine ownership of RMH. The result is that Rush County owns the land and buildings and the Hospital Board of RMH owns the business including the ambulance service. The hospital board has moved the depreciation money to a restricted fund which requires disbursements be approved by the Hospital Board. It was suggested that the county's request be modified to lower amount to allow the cost of a new ambulance to remain with the hospital. Jerry Kent made the statement to Kip Burkett that now it has become a trust issue. Kent stated that for years we were told that this was our money and now it is not our money and as steward to the taxpayers he believed it should be left at the hospital, now he has a different opinion. Burkett noted that the funds are not being kept out of spite and it is not too late for the city and RMH to work together.

PRESIDENTS NOTES

- State Board of Accounts audit had no written report.
- Probation Office wants to curtail the bonding process.
- Department of Transportation has maps of Railroad Right of Way to Manilla. There are Rails to Trails grants available.
- Partners for Progress allows for money for facelift to buildings downtown.
- Christmas Open House December 18th at the Mohr home at 6:00.

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Warren Norris. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion, Motion carried.

/s/ Gerald Mohr
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/s/ Warren Norris
Warren Norris

/s/ Charles Smith
Charles Smith

/s/ Janet Kile
Janet Kile

/s/ Marvin Hedrick
Marvin Hedrick

/s/ Kevin Spilman
Kevin Spilman

/s/ Jerry Kent
Jerry Kent

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor